REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the office action dated March 13, 2006.

The examiner has rejected claims 1-16, 18, 19 and 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,287,194 (Lobiondo) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,690,210 (Onuma).

Regarding claim 1 and claims 2-10, which are dependent thereon and comprise all the elements of claim 1, this rejection fails to present a prima facie case of obviousness as the combination of Lobiondo and Onuma do not teach all the elements of these claims. Lobiondo and Onuma do not teach the element of "dividing and distributing said spool data among a plurality of printing devices with said print system component, said dividing and distributing comprising parallel playback of spool data to multiple printer drivers" as claimed in claim 1 and claims 2-10, which are dependent thereon. In this rejection, the examiner cites Onuma (Col. 1, lines 17-36; Col. 5, lines 14-47) as teaching "dividing and distributing comprising parallel playback of spool data to multiple printer drivers." However, Onuma, at these locations and elsewhere in the document, does not teach this element at all.

Onuma teaches a method that employs parallel processing in the host computer CPU to execute print driver functions, such as conversion of RGB to CMYK data. Parallel processing with a CPU to perform data conversion is not equivalent to parallel playback of a spool file to multiple print drivers. Onuma, alone or in combination with

Lobiondo, does not teach parallel playback of spool data, nor does this combination teach playback to multiple print drivers.

Further the combination of Lobiondo and Onuma is not appropriate as there is not teaching to combine these processes. Onuma is a method for controlling data transmission rates to a printer, wherein the method comprises the use of a multi-tasking processor that performs parallel processes to speed processing times. Onuma has no relation to multiple printer processes or division of print jobs into multiple print tasks. Lobiondo teaches a form of print job distribution wherein a single print job is distributed to multiple printers. While both documents are related to printers, they do not perform related functions and contain no teaching to combine the unrelated functions.

Regarding claims 11, 18 and 23 and claims 12-17 and 19-22, which are dependent thereon. Claims 11, 18 and 23 have been amended to comprise the element of "and wherein said despooling further comprises parallel playback of spool data to multiple printer drivers." Accordingly, this rejection now fails to present a prima facie case of obviousness for the newly amended claims for the reasons stated above in relation to claim 1, which has a similar element.

Claim 25 is canceled.

The examiner has also rejected claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lobiondo (U.S. Patent No. 5,287,194) ("Lobiondo") and U.S. Patent No. 6,690,210 (Onuma) as applied to claim 11 above, and further in view of (U.S. Patent No. 6,049,394) ("Fukushima").

Claim 17 is dependent on claim 11, which has been amended to comprise the element of "and wherein said despooling further comprises parallel playback of spool data to multiple printer drivers." Accordingly, the combination of Fukushima, Lobiondo and Onuma do not teach this element and this claim is now patentable, as amended, for the reasons stated above in relation to claim 1.

The examiner has also rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lobiondo (U.S. Patent No. 5,287,194) ("Lobiondo") and U.S. Patent No. 6,690,210 (Onuma) as applied to claim 18 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,665,082 ("Takeoka").

Claim 20 is dependent on claim 18, which has been amended to comprise the element of "and wherein said despooling further comprises parallel playback of spool data to multiple printer drivers." Accordingly, the combination of Takeoka, Lobiondo and Onuma do not teach this element and this claim is now patentable, as amended, for the reasons stated above in relation to claim 1.

The examiner has also rejected claims 21 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lobiondo (U.S. Patent No. 5,287,194) ("Lobiondo") and U.S. Patent No. 6,690,210 (Onuma) as applied to claim 18 above, and further in view of (U.S. Patent No. 6,891,632) ("Schwartz").
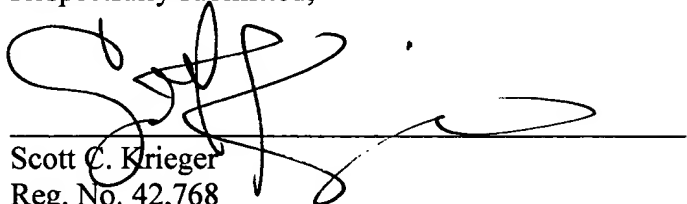
Claims 21 and 22 are dependent on claim 18, which has been amended to comprise the element of "and wherein said despooling further comprises parallel playback of spool data to

multiple printer drivers." Accordingly, the combination of Schwartz, Lobiondo and Onuma do

not teach this element and this claim is now patentable, as amended, for the reasons stated above

in relation to claim 1.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests

reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott C. Krieger
Reg. No. 42,768
Tel. No.: (360) 828-0589